

 The Chemist

That question has been settled for good, I think, and this show demonstrates the level of skill that tipped the balance from craftsman to artist. Steichen brought new ideas and inventive techniques to his employer's sophisticated magazines and helped to change our ideas of how we aspire to look, even as some of the famous portraits in the Taft's permanent collection did in their time. Nancy Huth, curator of education for the Taft, is curator for *Star Power's* appearance here. This traveling exhibition was organized by the Foundation for the Exhibition of Photography; prints in the show are from Condé Nast archives, as are the working prints for the magazines.

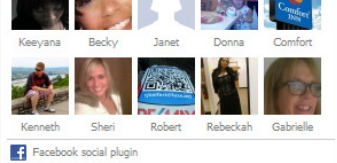
Lynne Ambrosini, the Taft's chief curator, has a tantalizing thought about the subjects of these 1920s/1930s photographs. Famous people were not unknown among the Taft's guests during the 1920s. "All sorts of people came here," she says. Perhaps, even, some of those whose portraits are in *Star Power*?

STAR POWER: EDWARD STEICHEN'S GLAMOUR PHOTOGRAPHY runs through Jan. 27 at the Taft Museum (taftmuseum.org).

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